

WO-308  
Alfred Pinchin House  
Snow Hill  
Private

c. 1882-1883

The Alfred Pinchin house is not easily classified as belonging to a particular late nineteenth century architectural style. Various Victorian building features not especially rare in other houses, were combined in this design in an unconventional manner for an unusual result. The center hall/double-pile floor plan, the symmetrical elevation, and the two-story bay are common features for the period, however the combination of a pyramidal roof and rooftop cupola is more typical of public rather than domestic architecture. Despite the unconventional nature of the roof, the West Federal street house offers an interesting contrast to the neighboring mid to late nineteenth century dwellings.

During the 1880s, Alfred Pinchin purchased several parcels of land on the north side of Federal Street in a apparent plan to create a generous sized town property for his new house. In September 1882 he purchased the largest portion, "...all that vacant lot designated as Lot 3 in report of sales and lying between Lot 2 in said report nad the lot of Ephraim Wilson front 108'10" Federal Street aforesaid and running back a depth of 284' to the meadow lot of Irving T. Matthews." It is presumed that Alfred Pinchin financed the construction of this house within the next year. He and his wife, Esther Gordon Handy, lived out their lives in Snow Hill. The couple are buried in the All Hallows Episcopal Church cemetery. After Alfred's death in 1894, Esther sold their house the following year to a committee of the Presbyterian Church which was searching for a manse. The Pinchin house served as the Presbyterian manse until 1950.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: ALFRED PINCHIN HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: W0-308

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):  
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE  
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s):  
SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-308

Magi No.

DOE ☐yes ☐no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ALFRED PINCHIN HOUSE

and/or common OLD PRESBYTERIAN MANSE

## 2. Location

street & number 302 West Federal Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Snow Hill ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Howard L. Carstens

street & number 302 West Federal Street telephone no.: 632-2668

city, town Snow Hill state and zip code MD 21863

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber FWH 605

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 211

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WO-308

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Alfred Pinchin house, known also as the old Presbyterian Manse, stands at 302 West Federal Street in the western residential district of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, five-bay frame dwelling faces southeast.

Built c. 1882-1883, this two-and-a-half story center hall/double-pile frame house is supported on a low brick foundation, and the squarish house is sheathed with a layer of asbestos shingles. The pyramidal roof, covered with standing seam tin, is topped by a pyramidal roofed cupola.

The southeast (main) elevation is a symmetrical five-bay facade with a center double-door entrance topped by a multi-pane transom. Flanking the front door are unusual elongated sash windows that retain pairs of louvered shutters. The window lintels carry a slight header molding. Lighting the second floor are four evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows with the same header molding and louvered shutters. The base to the roof is finished with a boxed cornice. Highlighting the south slope of the roof is a hip roofed dormer filled with paired two-over-two sash windows. The rooftop cupola is finished on each side with louvered vents. Rising through the west side of the house is an internal brick stack topped by a corbelled cap.

The southwest side is defined by a five-bay first floor. A center side entrance is flanked by two-over-two sash windows. The door is sheltered by a gable roofed stoop that features a sawn baluster handrail.

The northeast facade, on the other hand, is marked by a two-story bay pavilion with a chimney rising against the east side of the house. A third chimney rises in the back of the house.

The interior was not seen.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WO-308

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Alfred Pinchin house is not easily classified as belonging to a particular late nineteenth century architectural style. Various Victorian building features not especially rare in other houses, were combined in this design in an unconventional manner for an unusual result. The center hall/double-pile floor plan, the symmetrical elevation, and the two-story bay are common features for the period, however the combination of a pyramidal roof and rooftop cupola is more typical of public rather than domestic architecture. Despite the unconventional nature of the roof, the West Federal street house offers an interesting contrast to the neighboring mid to late nineteenth century dwellings.

During the 1880s, Alfred Pinchin purchased several parcels of land on the north side of Federal Street in a apparent plan to create a generous sized town property for his new house. In September 1882 he purchased the largest portion, "...all that vacant lot designated as Lot 3 in report of sales and lying between Lot 2 in said report nad the lot of Ephraim Wilson front 108'10" Federal Street aforesaid and running back a depth of 284' to the meadow lot of Irving T. Matthews."(ITM 9/234) It is presumed that Alfred Pinchin financed the construction of this house within the next year. He and his wife, Esther Gordon Handy, lived out their lives in Snow Hill. The couple are buried in the All Hallows Episcopal Church cemetery. After Alfred's death in 1894, Esther sold their house the following year to a committee of the Presbyterian Church which was searching for a manse. The Pinchin house served as the Presbyterian manse until 1950.(CWN 34/219)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. W0-308

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant/Worcester Co. date 3/1/90

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 301-651-1094

city or town Westover state MD 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

WO-308  
OLD PRESBYTERIAN MANSE  
(ALFRED PINCHIN HOUSE)  
302 Federal Street  
Chain of title

FWH 605/211

Margaret P. Hampton

to

11/29/1977

Howard L. Carstens, and Dorothy  
C. Carstens, et. ux.  
"Presbyterian Manse"

FWH 537/609

Harlan Wesley Fortney  
Nancy B. Fortney, et. ux.

to

7/20/1976

Margaret P. Hampton

FWH 441/187

Victoria Bundick also known as  
Victoria Bundick Mejia

to

6/25/1974

Harlan Wesley Fortney and Nancy B.  
Fortney

FWH 142/687

J. Milton Laws and Monica D. Laws,  
et. ux.

to

2/20/1961

Victoria Bundick Mejia

CWN 34/219

Committee of the Presbyterian Church  
in Snow Hill in Worcester County  
and Dewey W. Pusey and Maude B. Pusey,  
et. ux.

WO-308  
OLD PRESBYTERIAN MANSE  
(ALFRED PINCHIN HOUSE)  
302 Federal Street  
Chain of title

to

2/23/1950

J. Milton Laws and Monica D. Laws, et. ux.  
"Presbyterian Manse" except so much  
conveyed to Montgomery Stagg 5/26/1919  
ODC 33/290

FHP 6/96

Esther Gordon Pinchin

to

2/11/1895

Committee of the Presbyterian Church  
in Snow Hill in Worcester County  
...all that real estate with all singular  
the improvements thereon except so much  
real estate sold to Ephraim K. Wilson

Will Book  
GTB 3/459

Last will and testament of  
Alfred Pinchin

to

5/10/1894

Esther Gordon Pinchin

JWS 2/19

William Mills and Elizabeth Mills

to

8/1/1887

Alfred Pinchin  
\$50 being the intention of this deed to  
convey to the said Pinchin all the land  
owned by the said Mills on said Rosse's  
Alley lying between the land of said  
Pinchin and said Wilson on one side and  
and the first and second lines of this  
deed on the other



WO-308  
OLD PRESBYTERIAN MANSE  
(ALFRED PINCHIN HOUSE)  
302 Federal Street  
Chain of title

ITM 10/373                      Irving T. Matthews and Sarah H.  
                                    Matthews, et. ux.

to

5/10/1884                      Alfred Pinchin  
                                    \$10 beginning at a point where the back  
                                    line of the lot now owned by said Pinchin  
                                    situate on Federal St. in the said Town  
                                    of Snow Hill intersects the NE side line  
                                    of the lot belonging to Ephraim Wilson,  
                                    etc.

ITM 9/234                      George W. Covington, trustee  
                                    (Chancery Proceedings 1/11/1877 George  
                                    Richardson, et. al.

to

9/18/1882                      Alfred Pinchin  
                                    \$230 all that vacant lot designated  
                                    as Lot 3 in report of sales and lying  
                                    between Lot 2 in said report and the  
                                    lot of Ephraim Wilson fronting  
                                    108'10" Federal Street aforesaid and  
                                    running back a depth of 284' to the  
                                    meadow lot of Irving T. Matthews

ALL HALLOWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH GRAVEYARD

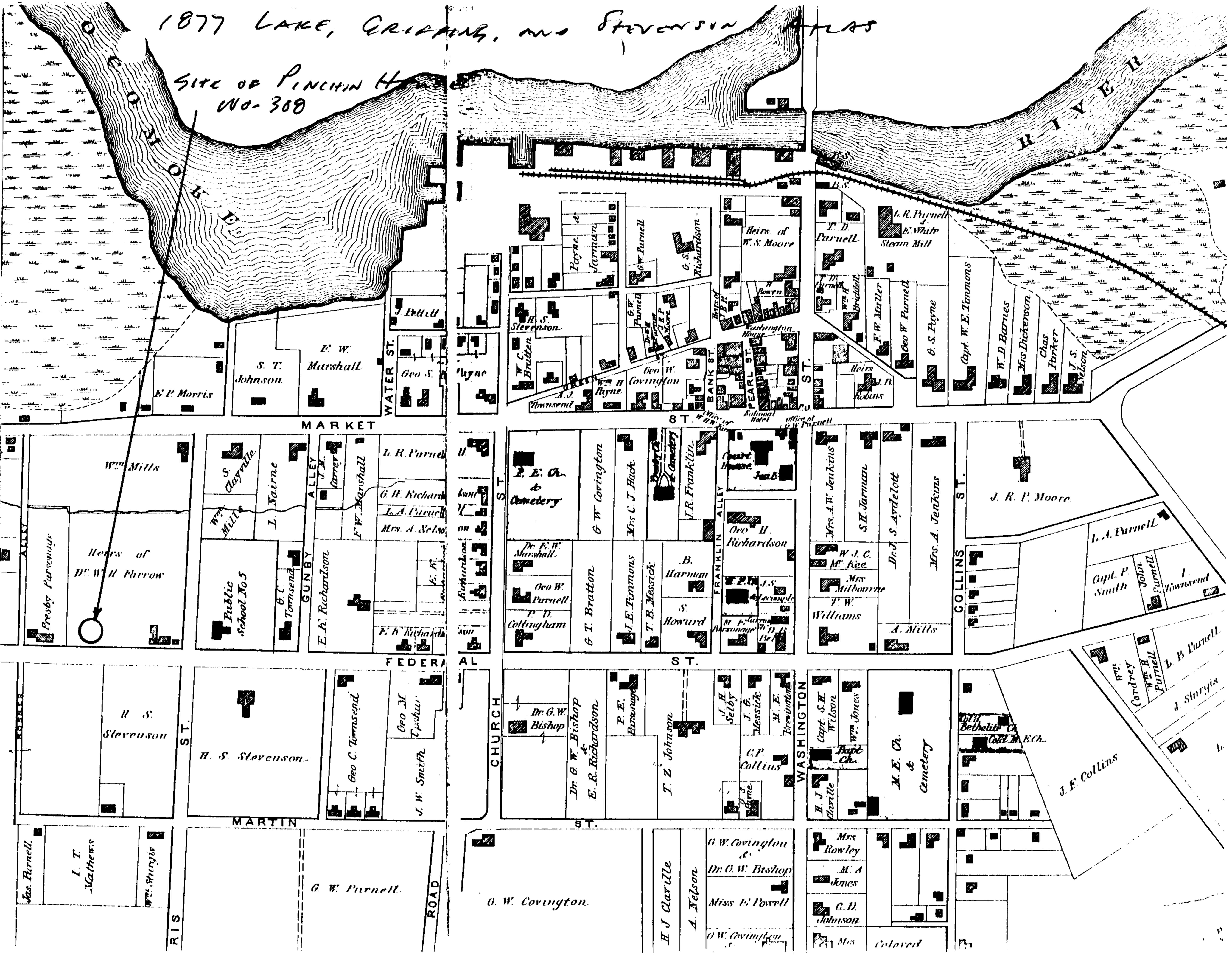
Alfred Pinchin, born February 14, 1820  
                                    died May 3, 1894

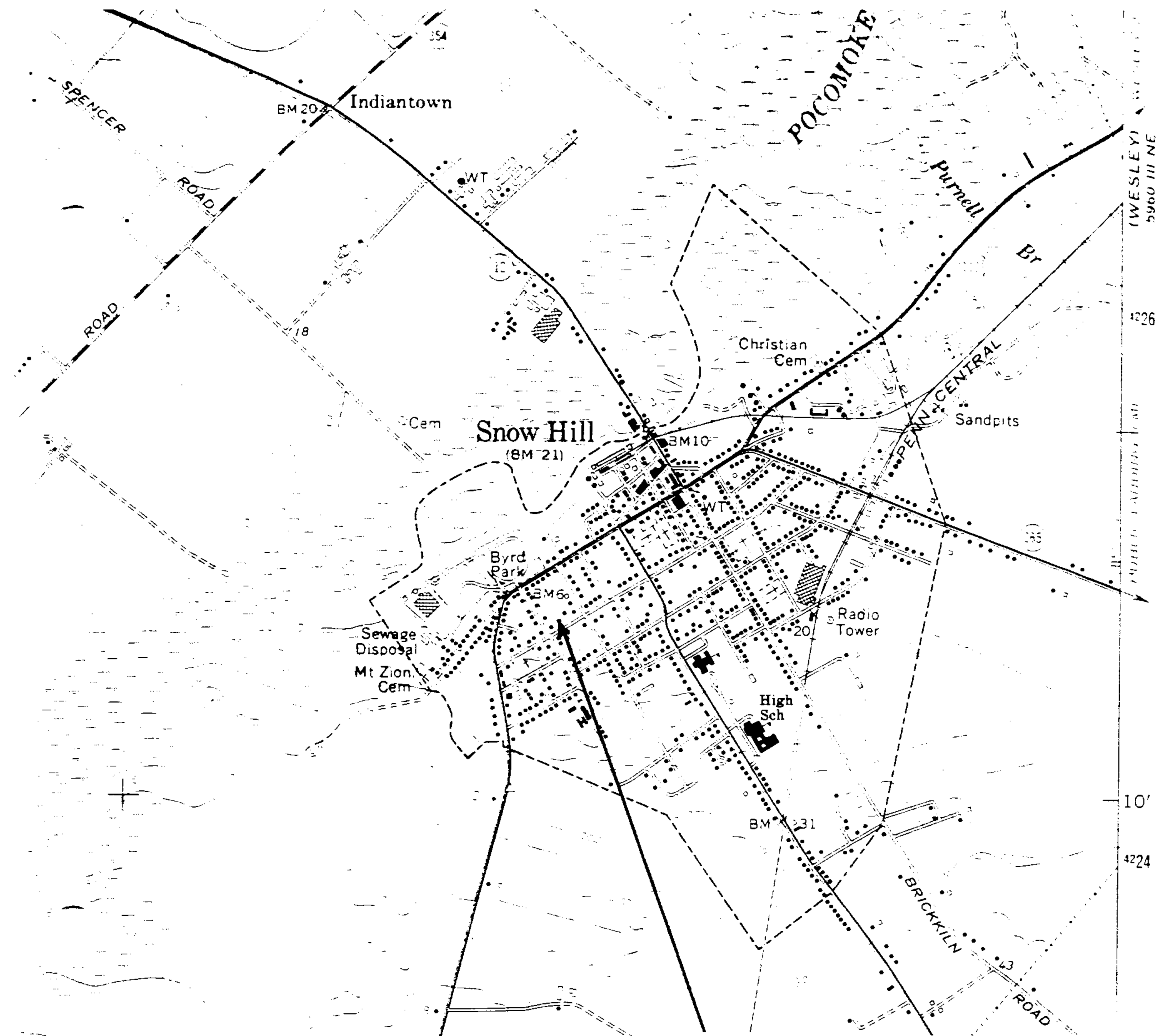
Esther Gordon, wife of Alfred and daughter of Richard Handy

born January 4, 1820  
died November 21, 1907

1877 LAKE, CRIPPLE, and STEVENSON ATLAS

Site of PINCHIN H.  
No. 300





WO-308  
ALFRED PINCHIN HOUSE  
Snow Hill, Maryland Quadrangle  
1966

